CONSUMER TIME

THE FURNITURE FACTS

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE...MONEY IN TILL

2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME !

3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER...CLOSE DRAWER

4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And here are Mrs. Freyman and Johnny.

5. FREYMAN: Today, Johnny, we're going to look at the furniture facts.

6. JOHN: And we find that the furniture facts are very simple. There just isn't enough new furniture to go around, Mrs. Freyman.

7. FREYMAN: As any one who has been shopping for furniture can tell you. And there are a lot of people who would like to buy new furniture. Especially veterans.

8. JOHN: In fact, it would take all the furniture manufactured in the next two and a quarter years just to furnish the homes being built under the Veterans Housing Program.

9. FREYMAN: And the other reasons for the furniture shortage...why you can count them off on one hand.

10. JOHN: Shortage of lumber....

11. FREYMAN: Shortage of steel....

12. John: Shortage of labor....

13. FREYMAN: Add 'em all up and you get....

13A. JOHN: A shortage of new furniture....You see...it's simple.

14. FREYMAN: Yes, Johnny, it's easy to see why there isn't more furniture... but just understanding the shortage doesn't help the people who want to buy new furniture. For instance our old friends, Alice and Albert Jones. Let's look in on them as they're playing bridge (FADE) with two friends....

15. CATHERINE: Now just let me mark down this score. Well, that gives us a leg....Looks like your luck's run out tonight, Albert.

16. ALBERT: The evening's young, Catherine. We'll stage a comeback if Alice'll concentrate.

17. ALICE: I am concentrating....

18. ALBERT: Your deal, Catherine.

19. SOUND: SHUFFLING AND DEALING OF CARDS DURING NEXT FEW SPEECHES.

20. CATHERINE: All right.

21. ALICE: Oh, Catherine, did I tell you I was looking for some new furniture last week?..just shopping around, you know.

22. CATHERINE: Well, did you see anything you liked?

23. ALICE: Mmm yes...but it wouldn't go with my other furniture.

24. CATHERINE: What are you looking for particularly?

25. ALICE: Well, I'd like some new dining room furniture.

26. SOUND: OUT.

27. CATHERINE: Alice Jones...what's the matter with what you've got now? It's very attractive.

28. ALICE: But it's so old...and it's as rickety as anything.

29. ALBERT: It's your bid, Catherine.

30. CATHERINE: Oh...excuse me. I pass. Well it still looks good to me. I wouldn't spend the money for dining room furniture now... there's too little to choose from. After all, you've got to live with it for a long while. And it isn't as if you haven't any furniture.

31. ALBERT: I'll say two hearts. Two hearts, dear.

32. ALICE: I heard you, Albert. But honestly, Catherine, those dining room chairs of ours are going to fall apart. In fact...the other day Mrs. Greening came over to visit....

33. CATHERINE: Isn't she the rather...ah...stocky one?

34. ALICE: You're just being polite. She's practically an amazon.

35. ALBERT: Catherine and George passed and I bid two hearts...Alice.

36. ALICE: So in she comes and plunks herself down in the dining room... in the one chair with arms...and two minutes later there was a crunchy noise and the whole arm came loose from the back of the chair.

37. CATHERINE: Oh Alice...no!

38. ALICE: Oh Catherine yes! Of course she was very contrite....

39. ALBERT: Your bid, dear.

40. ALICE: So I told her it had come apart before...and what do you think she said....(VERY INDIGNANT) "Well, why did you let me sit in it then?"

41. CATHERINE: (LAUGHING) That's wonderful.

42. ALBERT: Your bid, dear.

43. ALICE: Wonderful nothing...we either have to get some new dining room furniture or take out accident insurance.

44. ALBERT: Tell you what, pet...you just relax and play bridge now...and I'll fix the dining room chairs for you. Yes I will. I bid two hearts and the rest of them pass.

45. ALICE: Could you really fix the dining room chairs, Albert? Then maybe we could put off buying new stuff until there's more on the market.

46. ALBERT: Sure, dear, we'll fix them up fine...and any other furniture you want fixed too....Just bid.

47. ALICE: All right, Albert, now remember you promised to fix the furniture.

48. ALBERT: (ALMOST SHOUTS) It's your bid, Alice.

49. ALICE: Oh....I pass....

50. ALBERT: GROAN.

51. MUSIC: ECHOES THE GROAN.

52. JOHN: Well, Mrs. Freyman, Albert had the right idea about fixing up old furniture. Or was he just promising out of desperation?

53. FREYMAN: Well, Johnny, that bridge game was on a Saturday night. Alice spent all day Sunday reminding Albert of his promise to fix the dining room chairs.

54. JOHN: For Albert's sake, I hope he actually knew something about fixing furniture.

55. FREYMAN: Ah....don't underestimate Albert. Monday night, Albert inspected the dining room chairs thoroughly and diagnosed the trouble....

56. JOHN: With Alice's help, I'll bet.

57. FREYMAN: Tuesday night, Albert scurried around getting all his tools and supplies together. And Wednesday night, Albert actually rolled up his sleeves and started to get down to upholstery tacks. He was about to give first aid to the dining room chairs....

58. MUSIC: BRIDGE.

59. ALICE: Albert, what's all this stuff in the middle of the floor. It's the worst conglomeration of junk I've ever seen. What are you doing with it all?

60. ALBERT: Doing? Now? Nothing...but I'm going to use these things to glue our dining room chairs.

61. ALICE: Albert you're crazy!

62. ALBERT: Now, pet, you just find yourself a good comfortable chair...one that won't collapse...and I'll explain this business to you. It's a very simple matter. Our furniture comes apart because the glue has all dried out.

63. ALICE: But why Albert?

64. ALBERT: Why....Yes, why. Well, either because it's too damp in here or because it's too dry and hot.

65. ALICE: I just take my choice.

66. ALBERT: Don't strain yourself, pet. Either way, we've got to glue the pieces back together again.

67. ALICE: Well, hurry up and spread some glue around and stick the pieces together.

68. ALBERT: Ah...then we'd real ly be stuck, my love.

69. ALICE: Oh Albert.

70. ALBERT: But we would...but the wood wouldn't, that is, the wood wouldn't stick, so we'd be stuck...if you...know what I mean.

71. ALICE: Albert...make sense.

72. ALBERT: I am. I think. You see the chair won't hold together, unless all the old glue...and paint and everything else is off....And the wood has to be dry before we put the new glue on.

73. ALICE: Well...take the old glue off...hurry up.

74. ALBERT: Patience, pet. It has to be done gently....I have to scrape off the old glue....without taking a hunk out of the chair. Got any vinegar, Alice?

75. ALICE: Yes...there's some in the...what on earth do you need vinegar for?

76. ALBERT: Just leave everything to the old man, pet. Warm vinegar will wash off any little bit of glue I miss....

77. ALICE: But what will it do to the finish?

78. ALBERT: Not a thing. And after that we'll have to open the pores of the wood so the glue can penetrate.

79. ALICE: Sounds like a beauty parlor...open the pores. Are you going to give the chair a mud pack?

80. ALBERT: Now now...don't scoff. I'm going to dip the parts of the chair that have to be glued in warm water....And then of course they have to dry thoroughly.

81. ALICE: When do we get to the gluing, mastermind?

82. ALBERT: Now...that is, then, after the parts are clean and dry.

83. ALICE: Well, Albert, I'm going to give you a warning...and you'd better listen.

84. ALBERT: I always listen to you...(how can I help it.)

85. ALICE: The trouble with those chairs is that the ends of the rungs are too small for the hole they fit into.

86. ALBERT: We'll fix that. Just glue a couple of strips of cotton cloth over the end of the rung....Then it'll fit snug as a bug in a... a...in a...snug as a bug.

87. ALICE: Albert where'd you get this rope....

88. ALBERT: In the back yard...it was just sitting there...sort of resting on two poles....

89. ALICE: My clothesline!...Now Albert....

90. ALBERT: But pet, I need it to tie the parts of the chair together.

91. ALICE: If you think I'm going to use old chairs trussed up with rope in my dining room....Albert Jones you're mistaken....

92. ALBERT: (INTERRUPTS) Now now...the rope is just to hold the pieces of the chair tight together until the glue dries. See the rung on this chair.

93. ALICE: Naturally I see it, Albert. And I don't have to look at to know the rung is loose.

94. ALBERT: Well after I get it glued, I'll put the rope around the two legs of the chair...right where the rung enters. And then we'll make a tourniquet with a clothes pin to hold the rope tight and keep it that way for 24 hours...until the glue is dry.

95. ALICE: Albert you really amaze me.

96. ALBERT: Aw...it isn't much.

97. ALICE: I know but...I never even suspected you knew this much about furniture. On second thought...I'm not so sure you do. If you pull that rope real tight...it'll mar the finish.

98. ALBERT: (VERY SMUG) Heh heh...no it won't...because we put thick pads of newspaper under the ropes...where it touches the furniture.

99. ALICE: Albert you're positively ingenious...almost. Do you think you could do anything with that crack in the end of the table-leaf?

100. ALBERT: Crack...crack? Let's take a look.

101. ALICE: Here it is...it's not a very big one, Albert.

102. ALBERT: Can do...can do. I'll have to find a couple of pieces of soft wood to use as wedges...to open up the crack.

103. ALICE: You're not going to hammer any wedges into my dining room table.

104. ALBERT: I'll do it gently, dear...gently...just until the crack is big enough to get the glue in. Naturally I'll be careful not to split the crack further.

105. ALICE: Do you just pour the glue into the crack?

106. ALBERT: Too messy, my dear. We master craftsmen use a small brush...or a little stick.

107. ALICE: Well, Mr. Master craftsman, why don't you get started with all your glueing and stuff? Albert...where are you going?

108. ALBERT: (PROJECTING) Into the living room, pet.

109. ALICE: But Albert, you haven't started on the furniture.

110. ALBERT: Not tonight, pet....I'm worn out just from talking about it.

111. ALICE: (WAIL) Oh Albert....

MUSIC: BRIDGE.

112. JOHN: Well, Mrs. Freyman, I'm really impressed with Albert. So you really don't have to be a professional to glue furniture professionally.

113. FREYMAN: Johnny, you sound like Albert now . But you're right. An amateur furniture repairman can do just as good a job if he or she has plenty of time and patience. You really couldn't improve on Albert's methods for glueing furniture.

114. JOHN: I suppose not. But what I'm interested in is how to keep the furniture glue from drying out in the first place.

115. FREYMAN: That's a question of the humidity, Johnny.

116. JOHN: Anything to do with that old Washington, D. C. saying...."It's not the heat...it's the humidity."

117. FREYMAN: (LAUGHS) Something like that...but not restricted to the District of Columbia. You can protect your furniture by making sure there's enough moisture in the room. Water pans on the backs of the radiators help a lot.

118. JOHN: Isn't humid air supposed to be healthier for the people living in the room too?

119. FREYMAN: Mmm hmm. And this is a good time to be checking over the radiator pans so they'll be in place by the time really cool weather comes. Wood is likely to dry and crack if there isn't enough moisture in the air when the heat is turned on after a house has been open during the summer.

120. JOHN: Can you do any other furniture repairs at home besides glueing?

121. FREYMAN: Yes indeed...and people who are interested in re-upholstering or other furniture repairing, can get instructions from their local County home demonstration agent or State extension service. And most libraries carry excellent books on this subject.

122. JOHN: Do you have any other tips for taking care of furniture, Mrs. Freyman?

123. FREYMAN: I would like to say something about dusting.

124. JOHN: I didn't think there was anything new to be said on that subject.

125. FREYMAN: There isn't....I just want to remind our listeners how important dusting is. Besides keeping the furniture clean it helps polish the furniture and bring out the beauty of the wood. And of course a dustless duster is indispensable.

126. JOHN: Of course...say, what is a dustless duster anyway?

127. FREYMAN: One that won't leave lint. And here's an easy way to make one. Just pour a couple of tablespoons of furniture polish or liquid wax into a glass jar. As soon as the entire inside of the jar is coated, pour out all the mixture. Then put a piece of old soft silk or chamois into the jar and let it stand for a day or so.

128. JOHN: I get it...so the cloth will absorb the polish.

129. FREYMAN: Right. And after the dustcloth becomes soiled with use...you can just wash it and put it in an oil jar again. And now, Johnny, I think we should discuss slip covers.

130. JOHN: Slipcovers?...Isn't it a little late in the summer to be talking about slipcovers?

131. FREYMAN: Don't be old fashioned, Johnny. You probably still think of slip covers as those out-of-date...loose...baglike affairs that are supposed to protect furniture just in the summer.

132. JOHN: That's me...Johnny, the back number who thinks slip covers should cover furniture.

133. FREYMAN: Of course they should, Johnny, but today we have trimly fitted, smartly tailored coverings that we can use all year round.

134. JOHN: In a word....they are "chic."

135. FREYMAN: In another word, "yes." Slip covers can really brighten up the room and add a new accent to the old furniture. They can save the day for people who want to dress up their homes...but don't want to buy furniture right now.

136. JOHN: That makes sense to me.

137. FREYMAN: And of course slip covers still protect furniture from wear and dust...and so postpone re-upholstering. But I hope everybody will remember that no matter how closely woven the cloth in the slip covers is, some dust will sift through the fabric.

138. JOHN: So?

139. FREYMAN: So it's important to take off the slip covers occasionally and brush the upholstery.

140. JOHN: A thought occurs to me....

141. FREYMAN: On slip covers?

142. JOHN: Mmm hmm...you know some of the furniture they make these days comes "in the muslin."

143. FREYMAN: That's right...and the buyer has to pay for the fabric and the upholstering.

144. JOHN: Well, why couldn't you just put slip covers over the furniture ...until you were ready to spend the money to have it upholstered?

145. FREYMAN: You could...and plenty of people do just that. So you can see why I'm so sold on slip covers. They really have many uses... and they may be the answer to some people who are tired of the old furniture.

146. JOHN: But as we said before...there isn't enough of the new furniture to go around. So think hard before buying any furniture you can do without...at least until veterans have had a chance to get what they need for their homes.

147. FREYMAN: Johnny, I wish we had time to discuss what the veterans and their families should look for when they are buying new furniture.

148. JOHN: Well, most people know what they want in furniture...and whether it suits their home and their pocketbooks.

149. FREYMAN: Yes...but many of us don't buy furniture often enough to be good judges of quality. After all, furniture is a long term investment ...and you want to get your money's worth.

150. JOHN: That's true enough.

151. FREYMAN: So there are lots of things you want to look at when you're buying furniture...the webbings, the springs, the frame, the fabric. To say nothing of the veneer, the finish, and the kinds of stuffing.

152. JOHN: Say, Mrs. Freyman, all this business about selecting new furniture is covered in an article in the next issue of the CONSUMER'S GUIDE.

153. FREYMAN: That's right. So it is. And our listeners can get free copies too. How about telling how, Holly Wright?

154. WRIGHT: Friends, the CONSUMERS' GUIDE is a monthly magazine published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and dedicated to your interests. It does in writing what this program CONSUMER TIME does over the air...that is, bring you timely information that will help you get more value for every dollar you spend. In the next issue of the CONSUMERS' GUIDE, a whole article is devoted to helping you select good furniture. There are many other interesting articles in this issue too. For instance, there's a story on Soil Conservation...and still another tells you what to expect in the way of spices...as well as some fascinating spice history. For your free copy of the CONSUMERS' GUIDE with the article on furniture selection, and many other timely features, write to CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. And please include your address, and the name of the station to which you are listening. That's CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C.

155. MUSIC: BRIDGE.

156. FREYMAN: And what's on CONSUMER TIME for next week, Johnny?

157. JOHN: Next week we're going to broadcast right from the Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland...about thirteen miles from the White House.

158. FREYMAN: Beltsville, that's where the government scientists are working to bring us better kinds of food, isn't it, Johnny?

159. JOHN: Right. And one of the foods they're working on is eggs. So we're going to visit the laboratory where the quality of eggs is tested...and we'll even see a special egg-breaking machine that measures the strength of the egg shells.

160. FREYMAN: The Egg and you...the scientific approach.

161. JOHN: Right...so be with us next Saturday when we visit the Agricultural Research Center at Beltsville, Maryland, for a special edition of

162. SOUND: CASH REGISTER.

163. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME.

164. SOUND: CASH REGISTER....CLOSE DRAWER

165. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Eleanor Miller, and directed by Frederick Schweikher, is presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It comes to you from Washington, D. C. This is NBC, the National Broadcasting Company.